



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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VITA names four employees Star Award winners *– Honors presented each year during Virginia Public Service Week –*

CHESTER, VA – Four employees of the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) have been honored as Star Award winners for 2011.

VITA honors employees annually who exemplify VITA's values – value add, integrity, teamwork and accountability. This is the ninth year VITA has presented the Star Awards, traditionally during Virginia Public Service Week, which honors state employees' contributions to the Commonwealth and commitment to public service.

In presenting this year's awards, CIO Sam Nixon remarked on the winners. "I, personally, commend you for your commitment, hard work and dedication to citizens of the Commonwealth. Thank you all for a job well done," he said.

The 2011 honorees and some of the reasons they were selected are:

- Julie Fuentes, VITA Communications: Fuentes manages business readiness communications that help customers to be well informed and their businesses to be prepared for changes that come during modernization of the technology infrastructure. She produces an informative monthly e-newsletter for staff. She has been with VITA and its predecessor agency for nearly 17 years in full- and part-time capacities and is a life-long Richmond area resident, currently living in Henrico County.
- John Sheldon, VITA Finance and Administration: Sheldon works across organizational lines providing project oversight while keeping projects on track in an environment enhanced by open communications. He is leading an agency-wide program to define VITA services and the processes for obtaining those services to enhance customer service. He has been with VITA for six years and the Commonwealth for 22. He is a native of Minnesota, but considers Richmond home.
- Melinda Stewart, VITA Enterprise Services Group: Stewart constantly looks for ways to improve services, is responsive to customer needs and makes it a priority to manage resources efficiently and effectively. She always is alert to new trends and technologies that might benefit customers. She has been a VITA employee for eight years and with the state for 11 years. Stewart originally is from Northern Virginia, but considers the Richmond area home. She currently resides in Midlothian.

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- Chad Wirz, VITA Customer Service and Project Management Organization: Wirz seeks to improve the delivery of IT services to customers by consistently monitoring service delivery. He holds VITA and the infrastructure partner accountable for the quality of services delivered. Wirz provides clarity into complex IT issues to ensure that appropriate and accurate information is delivered. He has been with VITA for five years and is a Texas native.

The winners were selected from VITA employees nominated by their peers and join the 50 previous Star Award winners honored over the past nine years.

Virginia Public Service Week is held annually the first week in May. During the week, Commonwealth agencies recognize state employees for their service to citizens.

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